AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (*Currently amended*) A digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing ~~the~~ an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording image data~~, which has been~~ output from the image sensing device, on a recording medium, comprising:

a voice input unit for inputting a voice and outputting voice data representing the voice;

a voice recording controller for recording the voice data~~, which has been~~ output from said voice input unit[[,]] on the recording medium;

a character data generating unit for generating character data representing ~~voice represented by~~ the voice data output from said voice input unit; and

a character recording controller for recording the character data~~, which has been~~ generated by said character data generating unit[[,]] on the recording medium.

2. (*Currently amended*) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice during the sensing of the image of a subject by the image sensing device, and said camera further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

a first control unit for controlling ~~the~~ said image recording controller, ~~the~~ said voice recording controller and ~~the~~ said character recording controller in such a manner that at least two of the image data, the voice data and the character data will be recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other.

3. (*Currently amended*) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first reading unit for reading the image data and the character data that ~~has~~ have been recorded on the recording medium;

a first combining unit for combining ~~the~~ characters~~, which are~~ represented by the character data[[,]] with an image ~~displayed~~ represented by the image data that has been read by said first reading unit into a combined image data; and

a first display unit for displaying ~~the~~ a combined image corresponding to the combined image data ~~with which the characters have been combined by~~ from said first combining unit.

4. (*Currently amended*) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determination unit for determining whether the digital still camera has a voice output unit when playback is performed;

a second control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit ~~to the effect~~ that the camera has [[a]] said voice output unit, for outputting the voice~~, which is represented~~ by the voice data~~, from~~ to said voice output unit and halting display of characters represented by the character data; and

a third control unit, responsive to a determination by said determination unit ~~to the effect~~ that the camera does not have [[a]] said voice output unit, for controlling a display unit so as to display the characters represented by the character data.

5. (*Currently amended*) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second reading unit for reading the character data that has been recorded on the recording medium;

a second display unit for displaying characters represented by the character data that has been read by said second reading unit; and

an erasure control unit responsive to an erase command for erasing the voice data~~, which corresponds~~ corresponding to the characters being displayed on said second display unit[[,]] from the recording medium.

6. (*Currently amended*) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said image recording controller records the image data~~, which has been~~ output by said image sensing device[[,]] in response to input of a predetermined voice to said voice input unit.

7. (*Currently amended*) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second combining unit for combining characters~~, which are~~ represented by the character data that has been generated by said character data generating unit[[,]] with [[an]] the image data output from said image sensing device into a combined image data; and

a fourth control unit for controlling said image recording controller and said character recording controller in such a manner that the combined image data ~~representing an image with which characters have been combined by said second combining unit~~ will be recorded on the recording medium.

8. (*Currently amended*) The camera according to claim 7, further comprising:

a third reading unit for reading the combined image data~~, which represents an image with which characters have been combined,~~ from the recording medium; and

a second display unit for displaying [[an]] a combined image represented by the combined image data that has been read by said third reading unit.

9. (*Currently amended*) A method of controlling an operation of a digital still camera having an image sensing device for sensing ~~the~~ an image of a subject and outputting image data representing the image of the subject, and an image recording controller for recording the image data~~, which has been~~ output from the image sensing device[[,]] on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

inputting voice and obtaining voice data representing the voice;

recording the obtained voice data on the recording medium;

generating character data representing ~~voice represented by~~ the obtained voice data; and

recording the generated character data on the recording medium.

10. (*New*) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice in response to a shutter release.

11. (*New*) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising a shutter release button, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice in response to pressing of said shutter release button.

12. (*New*) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said voice input unit inputs the voice during the sensing of the image of the subject by the image sensing device, and said camera further comprising:

a character recording mode setting device for setting a character recording mode; and

a fifth control unit for controlling said image recording controller, said voice recording controller, and said character recording controller in such a manner that

the image data, the voice data, and the character data will be recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other in response to the character recording mode set by said character recording mode setting device, and

the image data and the voice data will be recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to

each other and the character data will not be recorded on the recording medium in response to the character recording mode not set by said character recording mode setting device.

13. (*New*) The camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determination unit for determining whether

all of the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other, or

only the image data and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other;

a sixth control unit, in response to a determination by said determination unit that all of the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other,

for controlling a voice output unit of the camera in such a manner that the voice represented by the voice data is output and

for controlling a display device in such a manner that the image represented by the image data and characters represented by the character data are output as a combined image; and

a seventh control unit, in response to a determination by said determination unit that only the image data and the character data are recorded on the recording medium in a form linked to each other,

for controlling the voice output unit of the camera in such a manner that the voice represented by the voice data is output and

for controlling the display device in such a manner that the image represented by the image data is output.

14. (*New*) The camera according to claim 1, wherein said image sensing device, said image recording controller, said voice input unit, said voice recording controller, said character generating unit, and said character recording controller are integrated into a single physical device.

15. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the image data, the voice data, and the character data are recorded in a single file on the recording medium.

16. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 1, wherein the voice data and a combined image data representing a combination of the image data and the character data are recorded in a single file on the recording medium.

17. (*New*) A digital camera, comprising:

an image sensing unit configured for sensing an image and outputting image data corresponding to the image;

a voice sensing unit configured for sensing a voice and outputting voice data corresponding to the voice;

a text data generating unit configured for generating text data corresponding to the voice data; and

a memory control unit configured to store the image data, the voice data, and the text data to a recording medium,

wherein a particular text data and the corresponding voice data are related to only one particular image data.

18. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 17, wherein the memory control unit is configured to store the particular image data and the related text data and voice data as a single file in the recording medium.

19. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 18, wherein the memory control unit is configured to read from the recording medium the image data and the related text data, the camera further comprising:

a combining unit configured for generating a combined image data by combining the image data and visual representations of the text data read from the recording medium; and

a display unit configured for displaying a combined image corresponding to the combined image data.

20. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 19, wherein the memory control unit is configured to read from the recording medium the related voice data, the camera further comprising:

a voice output unit configured for outputting the voice corresponding to the related voice data read from the recording medium.

21. (*New*) A digital camera, comprising:

an image sensing unit configured for sensing an image and outputting image data corresponding to the image;

a voice sensing unit configured for sensing a voice and outputting voice data corresponding to the voice;

a text data generating unit configured for generating text data corresponding to the voice data;

a combining unit configured for generating a combined image data by combining the image data and visual representations of the text data; and

a memory control unit configured to store the combined image data and the voice data a recording medium,

wherein a particular voice data is related to only one particular combined image data.

22. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 21, wherein the memory control unit is configured to store the particular combined image data and the related voice data as a single file in the recording medium.

23. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 22, wherein the memory control unit is configured to read from the recording medium the combined image data, the camera further comprising:

a display unit configured for displaying a combined image corresponding to the combined image data.

24. (*New*) The digital camera of claim 23, wherein the memory control unit is further configured to read from the recording medium the related voice data, the camera further comprising:

a voice output unit configured for outputting the voice corresponding to the related voice data read from the recording medium.